

1 HB 1370- School Board Powers and Leasing of Real Property
2 West Fargo Public Schools – Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager
3
4 Chairman Owens, Members of the House Education Committee,
5

6 Good morning. For the record, my name is Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager for West Fargo
7 Public Schools. We respectfully request a ‘do pass’ recommendation on HB 1370.

8 In 2019, AT&T initiated conversation with the district regarding installation of an antenna at
9 Sheyenne High School to ensure robust coverage with the emerging FirstNet emergency
10 communications network was available in southern West Fargo.

11 AT&T has been a great partner to work with thus far, brainstorming unique solutions such as
12 replacing our northwestern stadium light pole with a modified pole that houses both the field
13 lights as well as the cellular antenna. On the back of this page is a potential rendering of what the
14 antenna pole could look like.

15 Given the substantial capital investment required to ensure proper operations, AT&T has voiced
16 hesitancy with the limitation of a one-year lease, as specified in 15.1-09-33 (7), to move this
17 project forward. Without an adjustment allowing a longer-term lease, it is unlikely we will be
18 able to finalize an agreement.

19 HB 1370 would provide regulatory certainty that allows the private sector to make crucial
20 emergency communications improvements in our community while adding value to the school
21 district.

22 We respectfully request a ‘do pass’ on HB 1370. I am happy to stand for any questions.

